

When the UMMA Clinic opened 10 years ago, it was the first charitable medical facility in the United States founded by Muslim Americans. At a time when Muslim Americans face unfair discrimination and scrutiny, the UMMA Clinic allows Muslims to put their faith into action through service, selflessness and compassion. The UMMA Clinic provides Muslim Americans with an institution in which they can take pride, one that enriches the community with services that save lives.

The UMMA Clinic serves as a primary health care source for over 15,000 children and adults in South Los Angeles, many of whom otherwise would have no access to primary health care services. It has a patient clientele from every conceivable faith, culture and background. Over 95 percent of the beneficiaries of UMMA's services are not Muslim.

UMMA takes a comprehensive approach to health care. At the UMMA Clinic, patients can see a regular family doctor who knows them and who cares about them. They can return again and again to the same family doctor who helps them stay one step ahead of illness by encouraging them to eat properly and live a healthy lifestyle and making certain they get all of their physicals, vaccinations, lab tests, mammograms and other health screenings.

The UMMA Clinic has received funding and support from several other organizations, including Kaiser Permanente, the California Endowment, and Islamic Relief.

UMMA has also become a committed advocate for the fundamental rights of all citizens to have access to quality health care services, regardless of their race, religion or socioeconomic status.

The UMMA Clinic is one of the many ways that Muslim Americans serve their country. Muslim Americans have made contributions in many different fields. They are our clerks and laborers, our doctors and lawyers, our teachers and researchers. They work in our government, and they serve honorably in our military.

UMMA represents the best of the Muslim American community. UMMA embodies high ethics and moral standards, and it was founded as a result of the obligation Muslim Americans feel to ensure the well-being of everyone in society. If you want to see what Muslim Americans truly represent, go to the UMMA Community Clinic in my district and you will see it there.

Charitable organizations like the UMMA Clinic cannot solve the Nation's health crisis alone, but their efforts are making an invaluable contribution by healing countless people who have been relegated to society's margins.

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I am proud to congratulate the UMMA Community Clinic upon its 10th anniversary for the critical health services it provides to the medically

underserved in Los Angeles. I salute the UMMA Community Clinic and all of the people who run it, and I salute the Muslim American community for making it possible.

I am honored to be joined in Washington today by several founders of the UMMA Community Clinic and other individuals who are affiliated with the UMMA Clinic. These individuals met with me today to discuss the work that they are doing at UMMA.

1. Yasser Aman, 2. Mansur Khan, 3. Altaf Kazi, 4. Rushdi Abdulkader, 5. Nishi Abdulkader, 6. Aisha Siddiq, 7. Safia Siddiq, 8. Raziya Shaikh, 9. Charles Sadler, 10. Hoori Sadler, 11. Ahmed Elbendary, 12. Jill Elbendary, 13. Angela Coron, 14. Mahdy Bray, and 15. Diana Bonta.

I welcome these people to our nation's Capitol and I congratulate them for the founding of the UMMA Community Clinic and for their continuing commitment to provide quality health care to uninsured and impoverished families in my congressional district.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION WAIVING REQUIREMENT OF CLAUSE 6(a) OF RULE XIII WITH RESPECT TO CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN RESOLUTIONS

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 109-602) on the resolution (H. Res. 951) waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4157, HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PROMOTION ACT OF 2006

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 109-603) on the resolution (H. Res. 952) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4157) to amend the Social Security Act to encourage the dissemination, security, confidentiality, and usefulness of health information technology, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. POE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

THE FARM ANIMAL STEWARDSHIP ACT: HUMANE TREATMENT OF FARM ANIMALS

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to address the House for 5 minutes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Connecticut is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, on June 29, 2006, the Friends of Animals Caucus held a groundbreaking event on farm animal welfare.

Members of the caucus were joined by a distinguished and diverse panel of speakers: representatives of three major animal protection organizations, a noted legal scholar, a family farmer, and representatives of the religious and environmental communities.

The way a society treats its animals speaks to the core values and priorities of its citizens.

PETER DEFAZIO and I recently introduced legislation, H.R. 5557, the Farm Animal Stewardship Act, which we hope will lead to more humane treatment of farm animals raised for consumption. Additionally, I am developing bills to address the issues of labeling and animal cruelty that exists in America.

Some species have become our companions, some play important roles in sensitive ecosystems, and some are raised for food. It is our duty to protect and care for all of these animals.

Matthew Scully, former special assistant and deputy director of speechwriting to President George W. Bush, was unable to attend, but he submitted his article "Fear Factories: The Case for Compassionate Conservatism—for Animals," which was published in the May 23, 2005, issue of the American Conservative. He asked that it be included as a summary of his views on this subject.

Before ending my comments, let me highlight some of the views expressed by Matthew Scully because it expresses what I believe.

Mr. Scully states: "... the persistent animal welfare questions of our day center on institutional cruelties on the vast and systematic mistreatment of animals that most of us never see."

"... all of factory farming proceeds by a massive denial of reality, the reality that pigs and other animals are not just production units to be endlessly exploited but living creatures with natures and needs."

He continues: "Conservatives are supposed to revere tradition. Factory farming has no tradition, no rules, no codes of honor, no little decencies to spare for a fellow creature."

"The whole thing is an abandonment of rural values and a betrayal of honorable animal husbandry."

He further continues by saying: "... we cannot just take from these creatures; we must give them something in return. We owe them a merciful death and we owe them a merciful life. And when human beings cannot do something humanely, without degrading both creatures and ourselves, then we should not do it at all."

The importance of this issue is evident, as over 100 people attended the hearing to examine the issue of the humane treatment of farm animals.

The Friends of Animals Caucus will continue to work on a bipartisan basis